

WYCOMBE KEEP WELL ON TOP

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WANDS. 4 : WIMBLEDON ... 1

BATTLING to keep their Isthmian League lead, Wycombe Wanderers had a tough test this afternoon against one of their closest championship rivals, Wimbledon. After an uncertain start they had the better of the first half and were a little unlucky not to be ahead at half-time. They got on top in the second half, however, and won 4-1.

Wycombe: C Brown; Beck, Moring; Thomas, Bartholomew, Truett; Worley, Trott, Bates, Fryer, Tomlin.

Wimbledon: Ledger; J Martin, Rudge; Ardrey, Law, Wright; Burton, B Martin, Reynolds, Regden, Williams.

Referee: D Juggins (Romford).

Wimbledon were the first to look dangerous, right-winger Burton sending in a hot shot which went just over the bar.

Wycombe retaliated with a brisk raid on the right wing, but Bates, taking a pass in the centre, was robbed before he could get in a shot. Then Fryer got through on his own and only a daring tackle by Martin robbed him at the last minute.

FINE SAVE

After Worley had missed an easy chance from a pass from Bates, Wycombe took the lead in the 11th minute. Accepting another pass from Bates, Fryer ran through on his own to beat Ledger with a well-placed shot. Playing sparkling football at times, the home forwards kept Wimbledon on the defensive for long spells. Brown made a fine save once when Brian Martin broke through alone for the visitors.

It was against the run of play when Wimbledon drew level in the 31st minute. After Brown had saved from Reynolds and Martin had hit the upright, BARTHOLOMEW, dashing back, carried the ball with him into his own goal.

Fryer inspired many promising moves as Wycombe tried to regain the lead but Wimbledon covered well in defence.

Half-time: Wycombe 1, Wimbledon 1.

Wimbledon looked more dangerous early in the second half, but when Wycombe retaliated Tomlin slipped a neat pass to FRYER who went on to score a brilliant goal in the 54th minute to restore Wycombe's lead.

The goal inspired a Wycombe revival. Twenty-five minutes after the resumption a penalty enabled Wycombe to increase their lead. BECK took the kick after Law had been penalised and he made no mistake from the spot.

ALL-OUT ASSAULTS

Five minutes later as Wycombe kept up all-out assaults, TROTT made it 4-1 with a crisp ground shot well wide of Ledger from Fryer's shrewd pass. Wycombe were now well on top and right back Beck ran half the length of the field before putting in a shot which Ledger just managed to turn over the crossbar.

In the last five minutes both Bates and Worley were injured, Worley being helped off the field with a leg injury. He resumed just before the end.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE W. 4
WIMBLEDON 1

WYCOMBE OWE IT TO FRYER

Wycombe W. 4 Wimbledon 1

AMATEUR international Ron Fryer, smallest man in the side, was the inspiration of Wycombe's victory yesterday over Isthmian rivals Wimbledon—a victory which keeps Wycombe still precariously in the championship race.

Fryer, in sparkling form at inside right, scored two of the Wycombe goals, and contributed to a third. With the recall of left-winger Tomlin, and with Worley back to form, the Wycombe attack had flashes of brilliance which shattered the close-knit Wimbledon defence.

But it was by no means a run-away victory. Well served by busy halves, Wimbledon claimed as much of the play, but although wingers Burton and Williams started many promising raids, the inside trio never succeeded in outwitting the smart Wycombe back division.

A masterly solo run by Fryer put Wycombe ahead after 12 minutes, but Wimbledon hit back and they deserved to be level at half-time, though their goal came from a Wycombe player, centre-half Bartholomew, who bundled the ball into his own goal after Reynolds and Martin had missed in a goal-mouth scramble.

Fryer increased Wycombe's lead early in the second half, but the turning point came when Beck converted a penalty.

The home side were well on top when Trott added a fourth goal in the 75th minute.